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COMMUNICATION

Editor School Review:

ON page 552 of the November number of the SCHOOL REVIEW is found the following statement:

"Those who have dealt with children and young people know well that they hear only that which they really understand. They only collect and hold sounds in mind to the extent that they apperceive them."

A considerable experience with children has led me to believe that the opposite of the above statement is often true. A boy of four years must have a very crude apprehension of concentric circles and regular polygons, and yet a youngster of this age was discussing these geometrical concepts with a playmate a few days since. That he was wholly ignorant of the ideas symbolized by the words which he was using so glibly, and evidently with great delight, was evinced by the fact that he did not recognize either the circle or polygon when diagrams of them were shown him.

He had heard his father discussing mathematical subjects, and had evidently collected and held sounds in mind that he did not apperceive.

I have found that children delight in learning new words, especially if they are long and difficult of pronunciation. To them the meaning of a word is a secondary consideration. Would it not be a profitable study to discover what percentage of the words in the vocabulary of a child are meaningless to him?

Yours truly,

WALTER S. LATTIMER.